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LETTER DATED 9 APRIL 1999 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I am transmitting herewith the text of a statement which I made today concerning Kosovo. I have also transmitted this text to His Excellency Mr. Slobodan Milosevic, President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and to His Excellency Mr. Javier Solana, Secretary-General of NATO, and requested their cooperation.

I should be grateful if you would draw the text to the attention of members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

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STATEMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I am deeply distressed by the humanitarian tragedy taking place in Kosovo and in the region, which must be brought to an end. The suffering of innocent civilians should not be further prolonged. In this spirit, I urgently call upon the Yugoslav authorities to undertake the following commitments:

- to end immediately the campaign of intimidation and expulsion of the civilian population;

- to cease all activities of military and paramilitary forces in Kosovo and to withdraw these forces;

- to accept unconditionally the return of all refugees and displaced persons to their homes;

- to accept the deployment of an international military force to ensure a secure environment for the return of refugees and the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid; and

- to permit the international community to verify compliance with the undertakings above.

Upon the acceptance by the Yugoslav authorities of the above conditions, I urge the leaders of the North Atlantic Alliance to suspend immediately the air bombardments upon the territory of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Ultimately, the cessation of hostilities I propose above is a prelude to a lasting political solution to the crisis, which can only be achieved through diplomacy. In this context, I would urge the resumption of talks on Kosovo among all parties concerned at the earliest possible moment.

9 April 1999